

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. New independent claims 6 and 7 have been added. Claims 3-5 have been amended to be dependent upon new claim 6.

The specification is amended to correct minor errors. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments is found in the original claims, specification, and drawings.

1. Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tapp 4393536. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. New independent claim 6 has been added. This new claim contains the following limitation: "electric lines from said body to said motor for rotating said rotation brush, said electric lines passing along said air guide path whereby said electric lines are protected from contaminants in air moving therepast" Tapp discloses a wire extending from the canister or wires associated with the handle. Thus Tapp does not show the claimed limitation.

In order to avoid rejection for anticipation, it is only necessary to show that a claim contains at least one element not disclosed in a single prior art reference. Accordingly, Claim 6 is not anticipated by Tapp.

New claim 7 recites a hose device with inner and outer spaced hollow hoses and a pipe device with inner and outer spaced conduits. Neither of these features is disclosed in any of the references of record and therefore Claim 7 is clearly not anticipated by Tapp.

2. Claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), two references cited.

Claims 1-2 have been rejected as being unpatentable over CA977910 in view of Tapp. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and have been replaced by new

independent claim 6. As explained above, the electric line limitation of claim 6 is not shown in Tapp and in addition is not shown in CA977910. Consequently, claim 6 is patentable thereover. Claims 3-5, being dependent upon claim 6 are deemed to be allowable for the same reasons.

New independent claim 7 recites a hose device with inner and outer spaced hollow hoses and a pipe device with inner and outer spaced conduits. These limitations are clearly not shown in any of the references and thus claim 7 is clearly allowable.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicants propose respectfully that they have responded to each and every rejection and objection raised by the Examiner in this case.

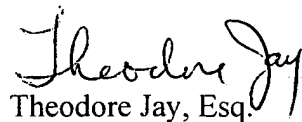
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4550.

No new matter has been added.

In the spirit of condensed and streamlined practice, if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned counsel at the number listed below for prompt response.

Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


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Date: 3/25/02

Attached: **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

Cancel the present title and substitute: ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER
HAVING EXHAUST AIR RETURN FEATURE.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 9, line 2, cancel "49" and substitute -shown-

Page 12, lines 17 and 18, cancel "axle" and substitute -shaft-.

Page 12, line 14, cancel "A n" and substitute -An-.

Page 12, line 25, cancel "81is" and substitute -81 is"

Page 13, line 17, cancel "are pass" and substitute -pass-; cancel "78".

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1 and 2. Add new independent claims 6 and 7. Amend claims 3-5 to be dependent upon new claim 6, as shown.

3. (Amended) A vacuum cleaner according to claim [1]6, wherein air in said air circulation exhaust path is directed in said floor suction tool toward said rotation brush in a direction to augment rotation of said rotation brush.

4. (Amended) An electric vacuum cleaner according to claim [1]6, wherein: said floor suction tool includes a suction tool body, a pivoting pipe movable up and down with respect to said suction tool body, a connection pipe pivotable in a circumferential direction with respect to said pivoting pipe;

said air circulation exhaust path passing through said suction tool body, said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe;

said feeder lines passing along said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe;

said feeder lines have a slack in the vicinity of said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe; and

said slack exceeding a pivoting distance of said pivoting pipe and said connection pipe.

5. (Amended) An electric vacuum cleaner according to claim [1]6, wherein exhaust air is guided to said rotation brush in a rotation direction of said rotation brush.

Claim 6. An electric vacuum cleaner comprising:
a vacuum cleaner body containing a motorized fan;
a flexible hose connected to said vacuum cleaner body;
an extension pipe connected to said flexible hose;
a floor suction tool connected to said extension pipe, said tool containing a
rotation brush and a motor for rotating said brush;
an exhaust path disposed in said vacuum cleaner body to guide an exhaust of
said motorized fan into said flexible hose;
a path disposed in said flexible hose to communicate with said exhaust path
in said vacuum cleaner body;
a path disposed in said extension pipe to communicate with said path in said
flexible hose;
a path disposed in said floor suction tool to communicate with said path in
said extension pipe;
said paths constituting an air circulation guide path passing from said body
along said hose and said pipe to said tool;
said air circulation guide path including an air filter whereby the air in said
guide path is clean air;
electric lines from said body to said motor for rotating said rotation brush, sai
electric lines passing along said air guide path whereby said electric lines are
protected from contaminants in air moving therepast.

Claim 7. An electric vacuum cleaner having a motorized fan with an exhaust
outlet and a suction outlet and comprising:
an elongated hose device having an inner hollow hose disposed in spaced
apart relationship with an outer hollow hose;
means connected to one end of said hose device for connecting the inner hose
to the suction inlet of the fan and connecting the outer hose to the exhaust outlet of
the fan;
an elongated extension pipe device having an inner hollow conduit disposed
in spaced relationship within an outer hollow conduit, one end of the pipe device
being connected to the other end of the hose device with the inner conduit connected
to the inner hose and thus connected by the inner hose to the suction inlet of the fan
and the outer conduit connected to the outer hose and thus being connected to the
exhaust outlet of the fan; and
a floor suction tool connected to the other end of the pipe device, said tool
having a suction port connected to the inner hollow conduit of the pipe device and
thus being connected to the suction inlet of the fan, said tool having an exhaust port
connected to the outer hollow conduit of the pipe device and thus being connected
to the exhaust outlet of the fan.